

Remarks

Claims 10 and 26 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of Claims 11-25. Applicant further appreciates the Examiner's indication of patentability of Claims 10 and 27, if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 10 is dependent upon Claim 1. As such, Applicant has amended Claim 1 to include the additional and allowable limitation of Claim 10. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1, amended in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowability, now stands in formal condition for allowance and further respectfully submits that Claims 2-9, which depend directly or indirectly on amended Claim 1 also stand in formal condition for allowance.

Claim 27 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 28 was amended to depend from Claim 27. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 27 and its dependent Claim 28 now stand in formal condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In light of the above amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that the application now stands in *prima facie* condition for allowance and courteously requests that this application be advanced to issue. The Applicant is of the opinion that no additional fees are required with the submission of this amendment. However, if additional fees are required, the Commissioner is hereby respectfully authorized to deduct such fees from Deposit Account Number 13-2166. The Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicant's representative, Taras P. Bemko, at 713-355-4200, to discuss any matters, that may arise, where such discussion may resolve such matters and place this application in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,


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